

Rural Utilities Service, USDA

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(b) Have the legal capacity and authority to own and operate the broadband facilities as proposed in its application, to enter into contracts and to otherwise comply with applicable federal statutes and regulations.

(c) As required by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), all applicants for grants must supply a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number when applying. The Standard Form 424 (SF-424) contains a field for you to use when supplying your DUNS number. Obtaining a DUNS number costs nothing and requires a short telephone call to Dun and Bradstreet. Please see http://www.grants.gov/applicants/request_duns_number.jsp for more information on how to obtain a DUNS number or how to verify your organization's number.

(d) Register in the System for Award Management (SAM) (formerly Central Contractor Registry (CCR)).

(1) In accordance with 2 CFR part 25, applicants, whether applying electronically or by paper, must be registered in the SAM prior to submitting an application. Applicants may register for the SAM at <https://www.sam.gov/>.

(2) The SAM registration must remain active, with current information, at all times during which an entity has an application under consideration by an agency or has an active Federal Award. To remain registered in the SAM database after the initial registration, the applicant is required to review and update, on an annual basis from the date of initial registration or subsequent updates, its information in the SAM database to ensure it is current, accurate and complete.

§ 1739.11 Eligible Community Connect Competitive Grant Project.

To be eligible for a Community Connect competitive grant, the Project must:

(a) Serve a PFSA in which Broadband Service does not currently exist;

(b) Offer service at the Broadband Grant Speed to all residential and business customers within the PFSA ;

(c) Offer free service at the Broadband Grant Speed to all Critical Community Facilities located within the PFSA for at least 2 years starting

from the time service becomes available to each Critical Community Facility;

(d) Provide a Community Center with at least two (2) Computer Access Points and wireless access at the Broadband Grant Speed, free of all charges to all users for at least 2 years; and

(e) Not overlap with the service areas of current RUS borrowers and grantees.

§ 1739.12 Eligible grant purposes.

Grant funds may be used to finance the following:

(a) The construction, acquisition, or leasing of facilities, including spectrum, land or buildings, used to deploy service at the Broadband Grant Speed to all residential and business customers located within the PFSA and all participating Critical Community Facilities, including funding for up to ten Computer Access Points to be used in the Community Center. Buildings constructed with grants funds must reside on property owned by the awardee. Leasing costs will only be covered through the advance of funds period included in the award documents;

(b) The improvement, expansion, construction, or acquisition of a Community Center and provision of Computer Access Points. Grant funds for the Community Center will be limited to ten percent of the requested grant amount. If a community center is constructed with grant funds, the center must reside on property owned by the awardee;

(c) The cost of providing the necessary bandwidth for service free of charge to the Critical Community Facilities for 2 years.

§ 1739.13 Ineligible grant purposes.

Operating expenses not specifically permitted in § 1739.12.

§ 1739.14 Matching contributions.

(a) At the time of closing of the award, the awardee must contribute or demonstrate available cash reserves in an account(s) of the awardee equal to at least 15% of the grant. Matching contributions must be used solely for the Project and shall not include any financial assistance from federal

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sources unless there is a federal statutory exception specifically authorizing the federal financial assistance to be considered as such. An applicant must provide evidence of its ability to comply with this requirement in its application.

(b) At the end of every calendar quarter, the award must submit a schedule to RUS that identifies how the match contribution was used to support the project until the total contribution is expended.

§ 1739.15 Completed application.

Applications should be prepared in conformance with the provisions of this part and all applicable USDA regulations, including 7 CFR parts 3015, 3016, and 3019. Applicants must also conform to the requirements of the individual NOFA to be published when funds are available for the program and are advised to use the Agency's Application Guide for this program, found at the Agency's Web site. Applicants must submit one paper copy and one electronic copy of the application. The application guide contains instructions and forms, as well as other important information needed to prepare an application and may be updated periodically. Paper copies of the application guide can be requested by contacting the, Director, Broadband Division at the following address: Stop 1599, South Agriculture Building, Room 2868, Washington, DC 20250. Completed applications must include the following documentation, studies, reports and information, in form and substance satisfactory to the Agency:

(a) *An Application for Federal Assistance*. A completed Standard Form 424;

(b) *An executive summary of the Project*. A general project overview that addresses the following categories:

(1) A description of why the Project is needed;

(2) A description of the applicant;

(3) An explanation of the total Project costs;

(4) A general overview of the broadband telecommunications system to be developed, including the types of equipment, technologies, and facilities to be used;

(5) Documentation describing the procedures used to determine the un-

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availability of existing Broadband Service; and

(6) A list of the Critical Community Facilities that will take service from the Applicant at the Broadband Grant Speed, and evidence that any remaining Critical Community Facility located in the PFSA has rejected the offer;

(c) *Scoring Criteria Documentation*. A narrative, with documentation where necessary, addressing the elements listed in the scoring criteria of § 1739.17;

(d) *System design*. A system design of the Project that is economical and practical, including a detailed description of the facilities to be funded, technical specifications, data rates, and costs. In addition, a network diagram detailing the proposed system must be provided. The system design must also address the environmental requirements specified in 7 CFR 1794;

(e) *Service Area Demographics*. The following information about the PFSA:

(1) A map, submitted electronically through RUS' web-based Mapping Tool, which identifies the Rural Area boundaries of the PFSA; and

(2) The total population, number of households, and number of businesses located within the PFSA;

(f) *Scope of work*. A description of the scope of work, which at a minimum must include:

(1) The specific activities and services to be performed under the Project;

(2) Who will carry out the activities and services;

(3) A construction build-out schedule and project milestones, showing the time-frames for accomplishing the Project objectives and activities on a quarterly basis; and

(4) A budget for all capital and administrative expenditures reflecting the line item costs for Eligible Grant Purposes and other sources of funds necessary to complete the Project;

(g) *Community-oriented connectivity plan*. A community-oriented connectivity plan consisting of the following:

(1) A listing of all participating Critical Community Facilities to be connected. The applicant must also provide documentation that it has consulted with the appropriate agent of every Critical Community Facility in